(d) the foreign exchange likely to be earned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has fixed a target of 5 lakh domestic and 30,000 foreign tourist visits to the Kashmir Valley during 2005.

(c) The State Government has been given financial assistance for infrastrucuture, improvement of Houseboats, hotels shikaras and ponywalas and integrated development of tourist circuits, destinations, etc. Under the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan, financial assistance for setting up of tourist villages, setting up of Tourism Development Authorities, establishment of new tourist circuits and assistance to travel agents for marketing in the form of support for sales-cum-study toures etc. besides providing training to tourism industry personnel and developing skills of youth for building their capacities through the Institute of Hotel Management and Catering, Srinagar is being provided.

(d) The State-wise data on foreign exchange earnings from tourism is not maintained.

Setting up of medical centres to attract foreign tourists

2335. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of popularity of Indian medical system resorts and treatment centres among foreign tourists;

(b) whether her Ministry has taken or propose to take up with the Ministry of health and Family Welfare to set up more treatment centres in various parts of the country to boost tourism;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Toruism have formed a Task Force headed by Secretary (Health) and senior officials of the concerned Ministries and experts in the medical field, with view to promoting India as a Health destination for persons across the globe so as to gainfully utilize the health care expertise and infrastructure available in the country. It has also been decided to promote and market India as a Healthcare destination through collaterals/print/electronic and internet media under the Ministry of Tourism's "Incredible India Campaign."

Grant to states for water-shed programmes

2336. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view of the worsening water crisis, the Centre has decided to focus on availability, sustainability and quality of drinking water;

(b) whether worried over depleting ground water level the Government has also decided to take up water-shed programmes;

(c) if so, what are details of programmes that are being undertaken and whether Centre would double grant to Rs. 208 crores this year to various States for augmenting drinking water supply;

(d) what is total amount earmarked for Andhra Pradesh and others; and

(e) by when this scheme is likely to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Government has given due emphasis to the drinking water issues. The National Water Policy assigns highest allocation priority to Drinking Water in planning and operation of systems.

(b) and (c) In view of the depleting ground water level in certain areas, Government has taken up various schemes viz. Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting. Programmes such as